

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-25 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 PC-04 AID-20

NEA-10 DRC-01 /183 W

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R 250857Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1571

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DURBAN 0341

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SF, ET

SUBJECT: SAG PRESSURING BUTHELEZI NOT TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

IN ETHIOPIA

REF: DURBAN 0338

1. SUMMARY: PRIMIN AND MINISTER BANTU ADMINISTRATION ARE PRESSURING CHIEF BUTHELEZI NOT TO ATTEND AAI-SPONSORED CONFERENCE IN ETHIOPIA IN DECEMBER DUE TO PROPOSED ATTENDANCE ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN PERSONS. ALTHOUGH BUTHELEZI INSISTING HE WILL GO, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY SAG WILL APPROVE.

2. CONGEN INFORMED THAT, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, PRIMIN VORSTER AND MINISTER BANTU ADMINISTRATION BOTHA HAVE SUGGESTED TO CHIEF BUTHELEZI VIA COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF ZULU AFFAIRS TORLAGE IT

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WOULD BE BEST IF HE DID NOT ATTEND AAI-SPONSORED CONFERENCE IN

ADDIS ABABA DECEMBER 3-7 (REFTEL). REASON ADVANCED WAS REPORTEDLY MINISTERS' CONCERN THAT HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH CERTAIN PARTICIPANTS AT CONFERENCE WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT BE CONSTRUED BY MANY PEOPLE AS BUTHELEZI'S MAKING COMMON CAUSE WITH SUCH PERSONS.

3. IN LETTER OF REPLY TO TORLAGE, BUTHELEZI DECLINED TO CANCEL HIS TRIP. HE POINTED OUT THAT DURING SOME OF HIS PREVIOUS TRIPS ABROAD HE, AND INDEED OTHER HOMELAND LEADERS, HAD MET VARIOUS NATIONALIST LEADERS BUT HAD NOT BEEN INFLUENCED BY THEM. DESPITE STRONG ATTACKS ON HIM BY SOUTH AFRICAN EXILES OVERSEAS, HE HAD STOOD HIS GROUND AND NOT AGREED TO THEIR METHODS OF INDUCING CHANGE IN S.A. PRESENCE OF EXILE NATIONALIST LEADERS AT THIS CONFERENCE WOULD NOT THEREFORE BE CONSTRUED AS HIS MAKING COMMON CAUSE WITH THEM, AS HIS DIFFERENCE IN OUTLOOK WELL KNOWN.

4. BUTHELEZI FURTHER STATED THAT HIS ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION HAD BEEN MADE IN GOOD FAITH. ALTHOUGH HE HAD IN THE PAST ACCEPTED MINISTERS' ADVICE AND CANCELLED PROPOSED TRIPS TO HOLLAND LAST YEAR (DURBAN 121 MARCH 27,1972) AND TO NAMIBIA IN MAY OF THIS YEAR (DURBAN 206), HE DID NOT BELIEVE HE COULD WITHDRAW HIS ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION TO ETHIOPIAN CONFERENCE AT THIS LATE DATE. IF HE WERE TO DO SO, HE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO REVEAL REASONS THEREFOR, WHICH HE ASSUMED MINISTERS WOULD NOT DESIRE SINCE IT COULD BE INTERPRTED AS EVIDENCE THAT HOMELAND LEADERS WERE "PUPPETS OF PRETORIA". HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO NEARBY AFRICAN STATES WAS IN LINE WITH SAG POLICY THAT HOMELANDS WERE ADVANCING TOWARD INDEPENDENCE AND WAS DESIGNED TO FURTHER DIALOGUE WITH THOSE IMPORTANT LEADERS. BUTHELEZI CONCLUDED LETTER WITH HOPE THAT MINISTERS WOULD RESPECT HIS DECISION AS A VERY SERIOUS ONE AND "SOMETHING I HAVE ARRIVED AT AFTER MUCH THOUGHT AND MEDITATION".

5. COMMENT: EVEN IF CONTINUED PRESSURE AGAINST PROPOSED TRIP MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS PROVING HOMELAND LEADERS TO BE PUPPETS, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT SAG WILL NOT WILLINGLY ACQUIESE IN BUTHELEZI'S ATTENDANCE AT SUCH A CONFERENCE.

HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973DURBAN00341
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HOLMES
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730913/aaaaajhg.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DURBAN 0338
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAG PRESSURING BUTHSLEZI NOT TO ATTEND CONFERENCE IN ETHIOPIA
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SF, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005